The Poor and Doubting Chriſtians GUIDE to Everlaſting LIFE:

Being an Invitation to every poor Sinner to lay hold on Chriſt Jeſus, and be happy for ever, whilſt Grace and Salvation is freely offered to all that will come in, and accept of it, before the Day of Grace is paſt.

Or, a ſeaſonable Warning to all Impenitent Sinners: plainly ſhewing the danger every Man is in, whilſt without God and Chriſt in the World; wherein every Soul is earneſtly exhorted to be ſpeedy in Repenting, and turning to God, becauſe Life is ſhort, and Death is at the Door, and if they dye without Chriſt, they will be eternally ſeparated from him, and will be made Companions for Devils and damned Souls for ever and ever. Being a dying Miniſter's laſt Sermon for a Timely preparation for Death and Judgment; being in a Trance a little before his Death.

Being Mr. *John Allis* his Laſt Sermon, late Miniſter of *Alisbury* in *Buckinghamſhire*, left as a Legacy upon his being taken Sick juſt as he had ended his Sermon, of which Sickneſs he Dyed.

Alſo his *Speech* and Exhortations he made to his Friends. With his Sick-Bed Prayer, and a Prayer that is left to be Recommended to the Uſe of all Chriſtian Families.

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Doctor *ALLI*'s Speech which he ſpake as ſoon as he came out of his Trance.

SInce I have been abſent form you, I have been in Heaven, and an Angel cloathed all in White, took me by the Hand, and ſhewed me many Glorious Things, where I ſaw many Glorious People go in moſt glorious Apparel with Crowns of Gold on their Heads: I asked him what they were; he told me, they were the Bleſſed and Holy Martyrs that Suffered in Queen Mary's *Days, for the ſake of Chriſt and his Goſpel, and the* Proteſtant *Religion. I would fain have entered the glorious Place, but he told me, not as yet, but he bid me declare to the World what I had ſeen, and then I ſhould have my Deſire. He turned me upon the other ſide, where I ſaw an ugly black Den, where Thouſands of poor Souls was tormented with Fire and Brimſtone; there I ſaw the Swearer and the Lyar hung up by the Tongue, with melted Lead poured down their Throats, with other cruel Torments which was inflicted upon them: There I ſaw the Drunkard and the Whoremonger, and alſo the Covetous and Voluptuous Perſon, which have goound the Face of the Poor; and alſo the Gluttonous Perſon: theſe alſo were tormented in Flames of Fire and Brimſtone, gnaſhing of their Teeth, and the Devils inſulting over them. I asked him what place it was, and he told me, It was a place of Torment for all them that do forget God.*

And having writ this, as the Angel bad him, he departed the World in a good Old Age. And there was in the Room *Thomas Johnſon, William Nicholas, John Dale,* Gentlemen.

Pſalm 89. Verſe 48. *What Man is there that Liveth, and ſhall not ſee Death? Shall he deliver his Soul from the Hand of the Grave, Selah.*

Romans 5. Verſe 12, 15. *Wherefore as by one Man, Sin entered into the World, and Death by Sin, and ſo Death paſſed upon all Men for that all have ſinned. So alſo is the free Gift, for if through the Offence of one, many be Dead, much more the Grace of God, and the Gift by Grace, which is by one Man, Jeſus Chriſt hath abounded to many.*

I Have choſe this Text as a Hammer to faſten thoſe Truths into your Hearts, as I have often delivered to you both in Preaching and Writing; and the Lord hath ſent me as a Fiſher-man amongſt you; and behold once more my Net is ſpread, and I am taking my laſt Draught amongſt you. And oh that it might have as good Succeſs as St. *Peter*'s. How often have I beſeeched you, and

and wooed you to accept of the Son of God to be your Lord, and Saviour, and Redeemer? I have ſet before you the Everlaſting Happineſs of thoſe that ſerve the Lord, and the miſerable Eſtate of thoſe that have Dyed without God and Chriſt in the World; and alſo deſired you to ſtand ſteadfaſt in the Liberty wherein Chriſt hath made you free, leaſt you be again Intangled with the Yoke of Bondage, continuing ſteadfaſt in the true *Proteſtant* Religion, leaſt the Light of the Goſpel ſhould be taken away from you, as it was from the Children of *Iſrael*, when they went after Strange Gods, contrary to God's Command. And this Sermon I ſhall preach as my Laſt Legacy, and the Cloſe of my many Years Labour ſpent among you: ane if you lay up thoſe Truths in your Hearts, which you have learned and received, heard and ſeen in me, and Do them, it ſhall be well with you.

And now to delay you no longer from the Particulars of my Text:

Firſt, You find here the Queſtion in the firſt place, asked by the Royal *Pſalmiſt*, viz. *What Man is he that Liveth, and ſhall not ſee Death.*

Secondly, This is followed by anorher Queſtion much to the ſame purpoſe, and that is: *Shall he deliver his Soul from the Hand of the Grave?* No, there is no power in Man to do it, his Wiſdom, Riches, Strength and Honour, all joyned in one, cannot ſave him. *Man*, ſays holy *Job*, *that is Born of a Woman, is of Few Days, and full of Trouble: He cometh forth like a Flower, and is cut down: He fleeth alſo as a Shadow, and continueth not*, Job 4. 1, 2. That is, his Life is frail, and uncertain, the Number of his Days, and Contingencies of his Life, not foreknown to him; he is certain of nothing, but that at preſent he lives, and that he may Dye when God pleaſes to require his Soul of him. For (in the ſame Chapter, ſays *Job*) *There is hope of a Tree if it be cut down, that it will Sprout again; and that the tender Branches thereof will not ceaſe, though the Root thereof wax old in the Earth, and the Stock thereof dye in the Ground, yet through the ſcent of Water, it will bud and bring forth Boughs like a Plant. But Man dyeth and waſteth away, yea, Man giveth up the Ghoſt, and where is he? As the Waters fail from the Sea, and the Flood decayeth and dryeth up, ſo Man lyeth down, and riſeth not till the Heavens be no more; they ſhall not wake nor be raiſed out of their Sleep*, Ver. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. This plainly anſwers the Queſtions of the Text, that Man cannot ſave himſelf from the Stroke of Death, nor from lying down in his Grave. Death was the part of the Puniſhment of our firſt Parents Diſobedience, and they entail'd it as a ſure Inheritance upon all their Poſterity. As for what is expreſſed in the laſt Words of the Text, *viz. Shall he deliver his Soul from the Hand of the Grave?* is not to be taken as

litearlly ſet down; for indeed the Soul of a Man is exempted from lying in the Grave, and even from Mortality it ſelf: *For when the Body goes to the Duſt,* (ſays holy *Job*) *the Spirit returns to God that gave it.*

Now dearly Beloved, let us ſeriouſly weigh and conſider theſe things, That it is appointed for all Men once to dye, and after that, they muſt ſurely come to Judgment: That Man cannot fly from Death, nor deliver himſelf from the Hand of the Grave: that for our Sins God is juſtly diſpleaſed with us, and many times takes us away in the height of our Strength and promiſing Years, and therefore we ought to be provided at all times, and not put it off from Day to Day, till our Change comes, and we will then in vain wiſh for a few of thoſe Precious Moments which we have ſo vainly ſquandered away in Sin, that we might have time to Repent that ever we offended ſo good and gracious a God, who has all along followed us with Mercies, and held forth his Promiſes ſet forth in the Scripture to us, that we might have laid hold of them to our Endleſs Comfort, and not like the *Iſraelites*, after ſo many Mercies received, provoke his Anger to deſtroy us, by being a Rebellious and Stiff-necked People. Remember the Fooliſh Virgins that ſlumbered and ſlept till the Midnight-cry of the Bridegroom's coming awaked them; but alas! then their Lamps were gone out, and before they could recruit them, the Bridegroom had entered, and ſhut the Door againſt them, then their Day of Grace was over, and it was too late to re-call it; they knocked indeed, and cryed, *Lord, Lord, open unto us*, but all in vain, for the Anſwer was, *I know you not* &c. Let us be up then, and doing, whilſt it is to Day, ſeeing our Lives are ſo uncertain, and ſeeing upon this Life, Eternity depends, that it is an Eternity of Joy and Bleſſedneſs, or Everlaſting Woe and Miſery. Let us conſider what Comfortable Words are laid down to invite every poor Sinner to lay hold on Chriſt Jeſus, whilſt Grace and Salvation is freely offered to all that will come in and receive it, before the Day of Grace is over-paſt: *For as by* Adam *came Death ſo by Chriſt cometh the Reſurrection of the Dead*, 1 Cor. 15. 22. *And he who hath given us his Son, how ſhall he not with him give us all things*, Rom. 8. 32. That we are Sinners, and that the beſt of us all have need of God's Favour and Mercies, we find in *James* 3. 2. *In many things, we offend all.* And 1 *John* 1. 8. *If we ſay we have no Sin, we deceive our ſelves: but if we confeſs and forſake our Sins, he is Faithful and Juſt to forgive us, and to cleanſe us from all Unrighteouſneſs.* And therefore if we Repent heartily and ſincerely, God has a ſtock of Mercy in ſtore for us, becauſe Chriſt dyed for Sinners; and *God hath comprehended all under Sin, that he might*

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ave Mercy upon all, Rom. 11. 32. God has ſworn he delights not in the Death of a Sinner, but rather that he ſhould live to Repent. Theſe things well weighed and conſidered, together with the uncertainty of our Lives, ſhould move us all to a ſpeedy Repentance, ſince upon theſe few Moments our Souls future Welfare depends to all Eternity, and a fearful looking for of God's Wrath and Fiery Indignation to fall upon all thoſe that do Evil, and dye in their Sins: For dye we muſt, and then go down to the Chambers of the Grave; and after Death, and in the Grave there is no room for Repentance, as the Tree falls, ſo it lies; as Death leaves us, ſo Judgment will find us, and there is no flying from God's Preſence, if we climb up to Heaven, he is there: if we go down to Hell, he is there alſo by his Juſtice: if we take the Wings of the Morning, and flye to the uttermoſt Ends of the Earth, he is there alſo. O let us then conſider by a ſpeedy Repentance, to caſt our ſelves into the Arms of his Mercy, before our Day of Grace be paſt, or the Lamps of our Lives going out, we are met with by his Juſtice, and conſumed in his Anger. Let us conſider what a fearful thing it is, to fall into the Hands of the Living God, who in his Anger is a conſuming Fire. And the Holy *Pſalmiſt* tells us, *That if his Wrath be but a little kindled in his Breaſt, bleſſed are all they that put their truſt in him*, Pſal. 2. 12. What muſt they do then, but fear and tremble exceedingly, who by their continuing in Sin, and ſlighting his offered Grace and Salvation, having provoked him to a high degree to puniſh them with everlaſting Death, by a baniſhment for ever from his glorious Preſence, to dwell in unquenchable Fire; with wicked and malicious Spirits, who though in your Life time are buſie and ſolicitous to draw you into Sin, will then nevertheleſs upbraid and reproach you for your Folly, for your loſing ſo vaſt a Happineſs for ſo great a Miſery; and all becauſe we would not accept our dear merciful Saviour on the eaſie terms he tenders himſelf to us in his Goſpel; calling all that are weary and heavy laden, to come unto him, that he may give them Reſt; offering them the Water of Life freely, without Price or Money: he is the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven to feed our hungry Souls, the true Manna to feed usin our paſſage through the Wilderneſs of this World, till we come ſafe to the Heavenly *Canaan*, wore all Joy and Plenty dwells and abounds, ſuch Joy as is unſpeakable and unexpreſſible, and therefore compared to *Crowns of Life, a Kingdom, a Pearl of great Price, and an exceeding weight of Glory*, &c. and to all other things that are moſt alluring and coveted by Man on Earth.

On the other hand, the Pains and Torments of Hell to make us

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falling into them, are expreſſed by all things terrible on Earth, as Fire and Brimſtone, utter Darkneſs, weeping, and wailing, and gnaſhing of Teeth, Chains of Darkneſs, ſad and doleful Companions for the Devils and his Angels: and yet theſe and a thouſand fold more, cannot expreſs half the Torment of a miſerable loſt Soul, not for a Year or an Age, but to all Eternity, ſuffering under divine Vengeance, which muſt needs be very terrible and amazing, when the thoughts of never ending is.

If Iniquity be then in thine Hand, put it far away and let not Wickedneſs dwell in thy Tabernacle; for he as ſhalt thou lift up thy Face without Spot, yea, thou ſhalt be ſteadfaſt, and ſhalt not fear, becauſe thou ſhalt forget thy Mercy, and remember it as Water that paſſeth away, Job. 11. 14. 15. 16, Remember then all you that are preſent, and recommend it from me to your abſent Friends and Neighbours, that it is high time to Repent, and turn from the Evil of our ways, *That God may have mercy upon us, and ſhew us the Light of his Countenance, and be merciful unto us; that his Ways may be bitter known upon Earth, and his Saving Health among all Nations:* ſeeing what uncertainty we have of this Life, it is time to be preparing for one that can never fade away.

For what Man is he that Liveth, and ſhall not ſee Death? ſhall he deliver his Soul from the Hand of the Grave? And now the God of Peace be with you all, Amen, Phil. 4, 9.

Having ended his Sermon, he ſat down and ſaid, *I am much ſpent with Age and Infirmities; and this Sermon is the laſt that I ſhall ever Preach or deliver to you, for I find my ſelf ſtruck with Death in this Place, and although it pleaſe the Lord to take me away from you, who am your Shepherd and Paſtor, my Prayers to the Lord is, to ſend you another.* His Congregation fell a weeping; for he was a very Eminent Man for Converting and drawing of many Souls to Chriſt.

His Prayer when he was taken Sick in the Pulpit, after the Concluſion of his Sermon.

O *Lord, Eternal, Everlaſting and moſt glorious God! in whoſe Hands are all the Powers of Death and Life, and who ſhortens and lengthens our Days according to thy Will; Give us all Hearts always to conſider our latter End, that we may apply our Hearts to Wiſdom. O let us remember our Creator in the Days of our Youth e're the Evil Day come upon us unawares, and overwhelme us in our too much Security: Put us in mind, O Lord, ſeriouſly, that thou haſt affrded us this Time and Means to glorifie thy Holy Name through our bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; that ſo we may not be afraid in the day of*

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hy Anger, when the Earth ſhall be Burnt up, and the Heavens be bow-ed together like a Scrole before thy Preſence. Lord, thou art now calling ne from my long labouring in thy Vineyard, to receive the precious Re-wards of thy Love and Mercy. Lord ſupply my place with an able Paſtor, hat may feed this little Flocks with the ſincere Milk of the Word, that o they may grow up in Grace to thy Honour and Glory, and to the Sal-vation of their own Souls, through the Merits and Mediation of our Bleſſed Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, Amen.

After this, being carry'd Home, moſt of the Eminent People here abouts, went to Viſit him, whom he heartily Admoniſhed o a ſerious and ſpeedy Repentance.

His Prayer after he came out of his Trance, where he ſaw many ſtrange Things; by him recommended to be ſaid in all Families.

O Lord, what Man is there that Liveth, and ſhall not ſee Death? or who can deliver his Soul from the Hand of the Grave? In the midſt of Life we are in Death, and from who can we hope for Succor, but from thee, O Lord, our moſt mighty, moſt holy, and moſt merciful Father? who will not the Death of a Sinner, but rather that he ſhould turn from his Wickedneſs, and Live. O look down upon us in the mul-titude of thy Mercies, and tender Compaſſion on our Frailties: Conſi-der the weakneſs of our Nature, and ſupport us againſt all Temptations by the aſſiſtance of thy divine Grace and holy Spirit, that ſo we may reſiſt our ſpiritual Enemies, and become more then Conquerors through him that Loved us, even our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who ſhed his rich redeem-ing Blood, as a ranſome for poor, loſt, and undone Sinners. O let us, then with Angels, Arch-Angels, and all the glorious Hoſt of Heaven praiſe, adore, and magnifie him, now and ever, World without end, Amen.

His Prayer a little before he Died: Likewiſe recommended to all true *Porteſtants*.

O Lord preſerve the Vine that thy own right Hand has Planted: protect thy Church from the Malice and Injury of all publick and private Enemies, and let the Light of thy Goſpel ſhine in her in its purity; give all thoſe that preſs to be Members of her thy Grace, to live up in their Lives and Converſations, worthy of thoſe great Bleſſings thou haſt beſtowed upon them: Bleſs in an eſpecial manner my poor flock I have ſo long taught and laboured among, for the good of their precious and immortal Souls: So implant my Word in their Hearts, that they may abound in works of Charity and Piety, that when they come to

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give up their Account of this Life, it may be with Joy and Gladneſs, t be eternal Comfort of their Souls. And now Lord Jeſus I come, I hav fought a good Fight, I have now finiſhed my Courſe, and from this tim their is laid up for me a Crown of Life, not through any Merits of min but through thy great Goodneſs and Mercy, to whom with the Fathe and the bleſſed Spirit, be all Honour and Glory, World without en Amen.

After this, he gave up the Ghoſt with all Joy and Cheerfulnes dying in the Lord, and reſting from his Labour, whilſt his Work followed.

His Sayings, Pious Ejaculations and Meditations during his Sickne

LOrd! what is Man, or the Son of Man, that thou art thi mindful of him; thou haſt made him a little lower than th Angels, and haſt crown'd him with Glory and Honour.

Remember thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth, e'er the Evi Day come upon thee, then it ſhall be well with thy Soul.

Do good, and forget not; for ſuch Sacrifice is well pleaſing to the Lord.

Deal thy Bread to the Hungry, and turn not thy Face from the Poor, and ſo ſhalt thou find Treaſure in Heaven.

In Proſperity look for Adverſity, that thou mayſt bear it with Patience when it comes upon thee.

Theſe were his Sayings and Pious Exhortations. He was Interre with great Solemnity, and many Tears ſhed at his Grave; an upon his Tomb this Epitaph was affixed.

Here lyes a pious Chriſtian Friend,
Who always did the Truth Defend;
He ſlighted Worldly Pomp and Pride,
He lead a holy Life, and Dy'd;
He taught his Flock the Words of Truth,
And was a Guid to Age and Youth:
Thus did he Live, and thus did Dye,
And here in ſilent Duſt doth Lie.

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Licenſed according to Order.